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RESCUE MISSION



President Joe Biden speaks about the evacuation of American citizens, their families, SIV applicants and vulnerable Afghans in the East Room of the White House, Friday, Aug. 20, 2021, in Washington. Vice President Kamala Harris listens at left.

Associated Press
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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY: TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: PAULA RIDERSTAP SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	THURSDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	SATURDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
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PAULA RIDERSTAP SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm

Happy Hour 12 - 1/4 - 6/9 - 10

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KARAOKE HAPPY HOUR 9:00 - 11:00pm

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U.S. 'copters pick up Kabul evacuees; Biden focuses on rescues

From Front

By **ZEKE MILLER, ELLEN KNICKMEYER, ROBERT BURNS and MATTHEW LEE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military helicopters flew into Taliban-held Kabul on Friday to scoop up would-be evacuees, American officials confirmed to The Associated Press, as President Joe Biden pledged firmly to bring all Americans home from Afghanistan — and Afghans who aided the war effort, too.

But Biden's promises, and the limited U.S. helicopter sorties beyond the concrete barriers ringing the Kabul airport, came as thousands more Americans and others seeking to escape the Taliban struggled to get past crushing crowds, Taliban airport checkpoints and sometimes-insurmountable U.S. bureaucracy.

"We will get you home," Biden promised Americans who were still in Afghanistan days after the Taliban retook control of Kabul, ending a two-decade war. His comments, delivered at the White House, were intended to project purpose and stability at the conclusion of a week during which images from Afghanistan more often suggested chaos, especially at the airport.

His commitment to find a way out for Afghan allies vulnerable to Taliban attacks amounted to a potentially vast expansion of Washington's promises, given the tens of thousands of Afghan translators and other helpers, and their close family members, seeking evacuation.

"We're making the same commitment" to Afghan wartime helpers as to U.S. citizens, Biden said, offering the prospect of assistance to Afghans who largely have been fighting individual battles to get the documents and passage into the airport that they need to leave. He called the Afghan allies "equally important" in the evacuations.

Biden is facing continuing criticism as videos and news reports depict pan-



In this image provided by the U.S. Marine Corps, Marines assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) calm infants during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Aug. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

demonium and occasional violence outside the airport.

"I made the decision" on the timing of the U.S. withdrawal, he said, his tone firm as he declared that it was going to lead to difficult scenes, no matter when. Former President Donald Trump had set it for May in negotiations with the Taliban, but Biden extended it.

Thousands of people remain to be evacuated ahead of Biden's Aug. 31 deadline to withdraw most remaining U.S. troops. Flights were stopped for several hours on Friday because of a backup at a transit point for the refugees, a U.S. airbase in Qatar, but they resumed in the afternoon, including to Bahrain.

A defense official said about 5,700 people, including about 250 Americans, were flown out of Kabul aboard 16 C-17 transport planes, guarded by a temporary U.S. military deployment that's building to 6,000 troops. On each of the previous two days, about 2,000 people were airlifted.

Senior American military officials told The Associated Press that an American CH-47 Chinook helicopter picked up the Afghans, mostly women and children, and ferried them to

Hamid Karzai International Airport on Friday. U.S. Army's 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division airlifted the Afghans from Camp Sullivan, near the Kabul airport.

The officials say sorties like this one have been underway for days from various points in Kabul as Afghans seek to flee the country taken over by the Taliban. Intelligence teams inside Kabul are helping guide both Americans and Afghans and their families to the airport or are arranging for them to be rescued by other means.

For those living in other cities and provinces outside Kabul, CIA case officers, special operation forces and agents from the Defense Intelligence Agency on the ground are gathering some U.S. citizens and Afghan nationals who worked for the U.S. at predetermined pick-up sites.

The officials would not detail where these airlift sites were for security reasons. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss ongoing operations.

At a Pentagon briefing this afternoon, spokesman John Kirby was asked to confirm reports that US helicopters had flown beyond the airport, to multiple locations, to pick up people,

both Afghans and Americans. Kirby responded: "I can't confirm those reports. Not at this time."

In Washington, some veterans in Congress were calling on the Biden administration to extend a security perimeter beyond the Kabul airport so more Afghans could get through.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said a "small number" of U.S. troops did go outside the perimeter a short distance for a "short amount of time" to help bring in 169 people, but gave no details. Those were Americans, Biden said. The administration has said it's not capable at current deployment levels in Kabul of bringing order to the chaos.

The lawmakers also said they want Biden to make clearer that the Aug. 31 deadline for withdrawing U.S. troops is not a firm one. The deadline "is contributing to the chaos and the panic at the airport because you have Afghans who think that they have 10 days to get out of this country or that door is closing forever," said Rep. Peter Meijer, R-Mich., who served in Afghanistan to help aid workers provide humanitarian relief.

With mobs of people outside the airport and Taliban fighters ringing its perimeter,

the U.S. renewed its advisory to Americans and others that it could not guarantee safe passage for any of those desperately seeking seats on the planes inside. The Taliban are regularly firing into the air to try to control the crowds, sending men, women and children running.

The advisory captured some of the pandemonium, and what many Afghans and foreigners see as their life-and-death struggle to get inside. It said: "We are processing people at multiple gates. Due to large crowds and security concerns, gates may open or close without notice. Please use your best judgment and attempt to enter the airport at any gate that is open."

While Biden has previously blamed Afghans for the U.S. failure to get out more allies ahead of this month's sudden Taliban takeover, U.S. officials told The Associated Press that American diplomats had formally urged weeks ago that the administration ramp up evacuation efforts.

In July, more than 20 diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul registered their concerns that the evacuation of Afghans who had worked for America was not proceeding quickly enough.

In a cable sent through the State Department's dissent channel, a time-honored method for foreign service officers to register opposition to administration policies, the diplomats said the situation on the ground was dire, that the Taliban would likely seize control of the capital within months after the Aug. 31 pullout, and urged the Biden administration to immediately begin a concerted evacuation effort.

That's according to officials familiar with the document who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the internal debate.

Biden said Friday he had gotten a wide variety of time estimates, though all were pessimistic about the Afghan government surviving. □

U.S. appeals court refuses to end CDC's eviction moratorium

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
and **GARY FIELDS**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court on Friday said a pause on evictions designed to curb the spread of the coronavirus can remain in place for now, setting up a battle before the nation's highest court.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rejected a bid by Alabama and Georgia landlords to block the eviction moratorium reinstated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention earlier this month.

The landlords plan to immediately file an emergency motion to the Supreme Court, said National Association of Realtors spokesman Patrick Newton.

"With a majority of the Supreme Court in agreement that any further extension of this eviction moratorium requires Congressional authorization, we are confident and hopeful for a quick resolution," he said in an emailed statement.

In a short written decision, the panel said the appeals court had rejected a similar bid and a lower court also declined to overturn the moratorium.

"In view of that decision and on the record before



Gary Zaremba knocks on an apartment door as he checks in with tenants to discuss building maintenance at one of his properties, Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, in the Queens borough of New York.

us, we likewise deny the emergency motion directed to this court," the judges said in the ruling.

The Supreme Court voted 5-4 in June to allow the moratorium to continue through the end of July.

But Justice Brett Kavanaugh — who joined the majority — warned the administration not to act further without explicit congressional approval.

The Biden administration allowed an earlier moratorium to lapse on July 31, saying it had no legal authority

to allow it to continue.

But the CDC issued a new moratorium days later as pressure mounted from lawmakers and others to help vulnerable renters stay in their homes as the coronavirus' delta variant surged. The moratorium is scheduled to expire Oct. 3. As of Aug. 2, roughly 3.5 million people in the United States said they faced eviction in the next two months, according to the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey.

The new moratorium tem-

porarily halted evictions in counties with "substantial and high levels" of virus transmissions and would cover areas where 90% of the U.S. population lives.

The Trump administration initially put a nationwide eviction moratorium in place last year out of fear that people who can't pay their rent would end up in crowded living conditions like homeless shelters and help spread the virus.

President Joe Biden acknowledged there were questions about the legality

of the new eviction freeze. But he said a court fight over the new order would buy time for the distribution of some of the more than \$45 billion in rental assistance that has been approved but not yet used.

In urging the appeals court to keep the ban in place, the Biden administration noted that the new moratorium was more targeted than the nationwide ban that had lapsed, and that landscape had changed since the Supreme Court ruling because of the spread of the highly contagious delta variant.

The landlords accused Biden's administration of caving to political pressure and reinstating the moratorium even though it knew it was illegal.

"As the President himself has acknowledged, the CDC's latest extension is little more than a delay tactic designed to buy time to distribute rental assistance," their attorneys wrote in court documents. A lower court judge ruled earlier this month that the freeze is illegal, but rejected the landlords' request to lift the moratorium, saying her hands were tied by an appellate decision from the last time courts considered the evictions moratorium in the spring. □

Associated Press

Man who claimed to have bomb near U.S. Capitol held in jail

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man who claimed he had a bomb in a pickup truck near the U.S. Capitol, prompting evacuations and an hourslong standoff with police, told a federal judge Friday he has not taken his "mind medication" and was ordered to undergo a mental competency hearing.

Floyd Ray Roseberry appeared before a federal magistrate judge in Washington and was charged with threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to use an explosive device. If convicted, he could face a sentence of up to life in

prison.

Roseberry, 49, of Grover, North Carolina, drove a black pickup truck onto the sidewalk outside the Library of Congress around 9:15 a.m. Thursday and began shouting to people in the street that he had a bomb. He later made the same bomb threats to police officers and professed a litany of antigovernment grievances as part of a bizarre episode that he live-streamed for a Facebook audience.

A law enforcement official in North Carolina had recognized Roseberry and contacted the FBI to tell agents that someone had reported that Roseberry had recently "expressed

anti-government views and an intent to travel to Virginia or Washington, D.C. to conduct acts of violence," according to court papers. The person said Roseberry also told them he ordered a trench coat "to protect him from Taser and pepper ball guns and he would just tip his cowboy hat at the police."

Roseberry surrendered after about five hours. Police later said they did not find a bomb but did collect possible bomb-making materials.

Investigators collected the device Roseberry had been holding — a large rusty can with what he had claimed was a detonator on top of it. The can



A person is apprehended after being in a pickup truck parked on the sidewalk in front of the Library of Congress' Thomas Jefferson Building, as seen from a window of the U.S. Capitol, Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

had about an inch or two of an unidentified powder in the bottom of it and a "fabricated trigger was at-

tached to the top," court papers said. The can was sent to an FBI laboratory to be examined. □

New England preps for 1st hurricane in 30 years with Henri

By **PHILIP MARCELO** and **PAT EATON-ROBB**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — New Englanders bracing for their first direct hit by a hurricane in 30 years began hauling boats out of the water and taking other precautions Friday as Tropical Storm Henri barreled toward the Northeast coast.

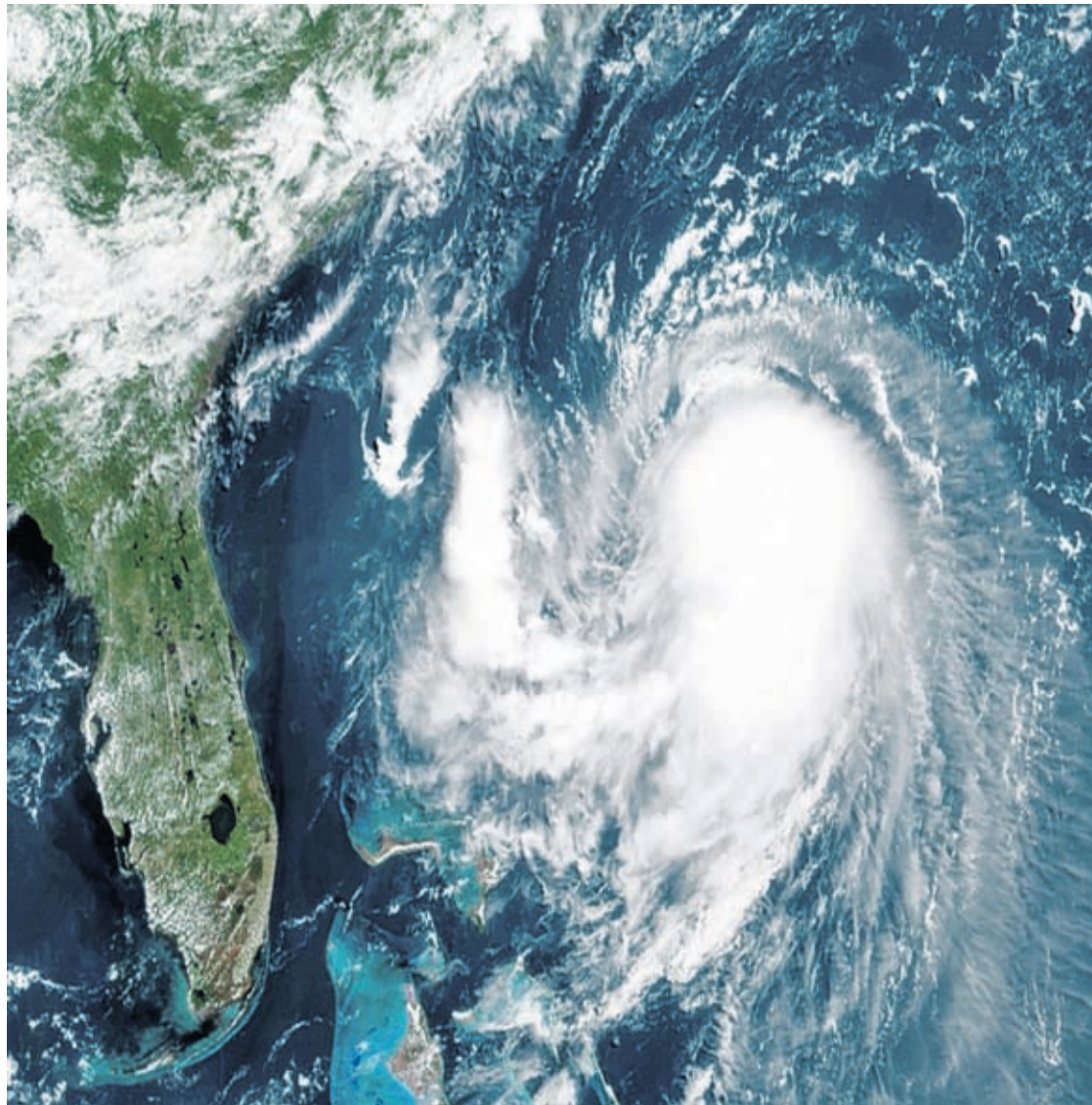
Henri was expected to intensify into a hurricane by Saturday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. Impacts could be felt in New England states by Sunday, including on Cape Cod, which is teeming with tens of thousands of summer tourists.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker on Friday urged people vacationing on the Cape to leave well before Henri hits, and those who planned to start vacations there to delay their plans. "We don't want people to be stuck in traffic on the Cape Cod bridges when the storm is in full force on Sunday," he said.

"This storm is extremely worrisome," said Michael Finkelstein, police chief and emergency management director in East Lyme, Connecticut. "We haven't been down this road in quite a while and there's no doubt that we and the rest of New England would have some real difficulties with a direct hit from a hurricane."

Finkelstein said he's most concerned about low-lying areas of town that could become impossible to access because of flooding and a storm surge.

Thursday marked exactly 30 years since Hurricane Bob came ashore in Rhode Island as a Category 2 storm, killing at least 17 people and leaving behind more than \$1.5 billion worth of damage.



This OES-16 East GeoColor satellite image taken Friday, Aug. 20, 2021, at 11:40 a.m. EDT., and provided by NOAA, shows Tropical Storm Henri in the Atlantic Ocean.

Bob, which left streets in coastal towns littered with boats blown free of their moorings, knocked out power and water to hundreds of thousands for days.

Large swaths of the Eastern seaboard were mopping up on Friday from the effects of Henri's predecessor, Tropical Depression Fred. In North Carolina, Haywood County Sheriff Greg Christopher said four people died and five individuals remained unaccounted for, down from around 20 people reported missing on Thursday.

The National Weather Service warned of the potential for damaging winds and widespread coastal

flooding from Henri. Authorities urged people to secure their boats, fuel up their vehicles and stock up on canned goods.

The system was centered in the Atlantic Ocean about 345 miles (560 kilometers) south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and about 745 miles (1,200 kilometers) south of Montauk Point, New York. It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph).

The hurricane watch stretched across the South Shore of Long Island from Fire Island Inlet to Montauk, and the North Shore from Port Jefferson Harbor to Montauk. It also covered the coast from New Haven, Connecticut, to Sagamore

Beach, Massachusetts; and Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Block Island.

The main threats were expected to be storm surge, wind and rain, forecasters said.

Storm surge between 3 and 5 feet (1 to 1.5 meters) was possible from Watch Hill, Rhode Island, to Sagamore Beach.

Rainfall between 2 to 5 inches (5 to 12 centimeters) was expected Sunday through Monday over the region.

Henri was heading northwest Friday morning, but forecasters expect it to make a turn toward the north and approach the New England coast.

At Safe Harbor Marina in coastal Plymouth, Massachusetts, Steve Berlo was among the many boaters having their vessels pulled out of the water ahead of the storm.

"It's rare, but when it happens, you want to be sure you're ready," said Berlo, 54. "Got to protect our second home. So that's that.

Now I can sleep tonight." In the Hamptons, the celebrity playground on Long Island's east end, officials warned of dangerous rip currents and flooding that's likely to turn streets, like mansion-lined Dune Road on the Atlantic coast, into lagoons.

Ryan Murphy, the emergency management administrator for the Town of Southampton, said that while the storm's track continues to evolve, "we have to plan as if it's going to be like a Category 1 hurricane that would be hitting us." The National Weather Service warned residents and beachgoers on the North Carolina coast of rip currents and rough surf associated with Henri.

Meteorologist Steven Pfaff of the weather service's Wilmington office said swells from Henri were expected to create hazardous surf conditions beginning Friday and continuing on Saturday.

At the U.S. Navy's submarine base in Groton, Connecticut, personnel on Friday were securing submarine moorings, installing flood gates in front of doors on some waterfront buildings, and doubling up lines on small boats, officials said.

Families were being encouraged to watch the forecast and make any necessary preparations.

The Coast Guard urged boaters to stay off the water, saying in a statement: "The Coast Guard's search and rescue capabilities degrade as storm conditions strengthen.

This means help could be delayed."

At the Port Niantic marina in Niantic, Connecticut, Debbie Shelburn and her employees were already busy Friday hauling boats out of the water and into a large storage building.

"Basically, it's become all hands on deck.

No matter your position mechanic, whatever everybody is out there helping with the logistics of moving the boats and getting them secure on land," she said. □



Turkish leader: EU must act to forestall Afghan migrant wave

By ELENA BECATOROS and SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The European Union should assist Afghans in Afghanistan and in neighboring countries to avoid a new migration wave, Turkey's president told Greece's prime minister in a telephone call Friday.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Greece's Kyriakos Mitsotakis discussed developments in Afghanistan in a rare call, as both countries worry over a potential influx of refugees fleeing the Taliban. Erdogan's office said he told Mitsotakis that "a new wave of migration will become inevitable if necessary measures are not taken" to help Afghanistan and neighboring countries, such as Iran, where Afghan migrants would head before trying to reach Turkey and Europe.

Erdogan also said that Turkey, which has reinforced its border with Iran, was discussing the issue of Afghan migrants with Tehran, according to a statement from his office. There's been an increase in recent weeks in Afghans entering Turkey from Iran.

Meanwhile, Athens insists it will not allow a repetition of 2015, when hundreds



In this Friday, May 21, 2021, a policeman patrols alongside a steel wall at Evros river, near the village of Poros, at the Greek -Turkish border, Greece.

of thousands of people crossed in smugglers' boats to Greek islands from the nearby Turkish coast, on their way to seek asylum in more prosperous EU countries. Turkey has also expressed concern over the potential of large numbers of Afghans heading its way. On Thursday, Erdogan called on European nations to shoulder the responsibility for people fleeing the Taliban, warning that Turkey will not become Europe's "refugee warehouse."

Greece's defense and citizens' protection ministers visited the northeastern Evros land border with Turkey on Friday to view barriers against potential migratory pressure and other recently installed security systems. Greece has bolstered border defenses since March 2020, when Turkey announced its frontier to Europe was open and encouraged thousands of migrants to head to the Greek side, leading to scenes of chaos.

Citizens Protection Minister Michalis Chrisochoidis said that while Greece is an EU member and supports human rights, "we can't wait apathetically for the possible consequences." Speaking during his visit to the Evros area, he added that Athens would not allow migrants to be used to put pressure on Greece. "It is our decision to defend and secure our borders," he said. "Our borders will remain safe and inviolate." Defense Minister Nikolaos

Panagiotopoulos said Greece had examined ways to bolster the surveillance and guarding of its frontier, while Chrisochoidis noted that a border fence about 40 kilometers (25 miles) long had been constructed in Evros since the March 2020 events.

In Turkey, anti-migrant sentiment has been running high as the country grapples with economic woes, including high unemployment, that have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

"We need to remind our European friends of this fact: Europe which has become the center of attraction for millions of people cannot stay out of (the refugee) problem by harshly sealing its borders to protect the safety and wellbeing of its citizens," Erdogan said on Thursday. "Turkey has no duty, responsibility or obligation to be Europe's refugee warehouse," Erdogan said.

The previous day, Greek Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi said the current priority was to evacuate Europeans and Afghan citizens who had worked with EU forces there, but that Greece "does not accept to be the gateway for irregular flows into the EU." □

Associated Press

New Chinese law tightens control over company data on users

BEIJING (AP) — China is tightening control over information gathered by companies about the public under a law approved Friday by its ceremonial legislature, expanding the

ruling Communist Party's crackdown on internet industries. The law would impose some of the world's strictest controls on private sector handling of information about individuals

but appears not to affect the ruling party's pervasive surveillance or access to those corporate data. Its passage follows anti-monopoly and other enforcement actions against companies including e-commerce giant Alibaba and games and social media operator Tencent that caused their share prices to plunge.

The law, which takes effect Nov. 1, follows complaints that companies misused or sold customers' data without their knowledge or permission, leading to fraud or unfair practices such as charging higher prices to some users.

The law curbs what information companies can gather and sets standards

for how it must be stored. The full text wasn't immediately released, but earlier drafts would require customer permission to sell data to another company. Alibaba shares lost 2.6% in Hong Kong after news of the law's passage. Tencent sank after the announcement but ended up 1%. Pinduoduo, an online grocer, was down 1.2% in pre-market trading on the U.S.-based Nasdaq. The law is similar to Europe's General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, which limits collection and handling of customer data. But unlike laws in Western countries, earlier drafts of the Chinese legislation say nothing about limiting ruling party or government access to

personal information.

The ruling party has been accused of using data gathered about Uyghurs and other members of predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in the northwestern region of Xinjiang to carry out a widespread campaign of repression.

Chinese authorities are "concerned at the volume of data big tech has in respect of the population and the power they can provide," said Paul Haswell of law firm Pinsent Masons. He called the measure China's version of the GDPR.

Most organizations, however, should be prepared after Chinese authorities imposed other restrictions on data oversight, Haswell said. □



A woman holds an umbrella as she walks past the offices of Chinese e-commerce firm Alibaba in Beijing on Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

Malaysian king picks ex-deputy PM as nation's new leader

By EILEEN NG

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's longest-

governing political party reclaimed the premiership it lost in a shock 2018 election defeat, after the king on Friday named its candidate, Ismail Sabri Yaakob, as the country's new leader.

Ismail was the deputy prime minister under the government of Muhyiddin Yassin, who resigned Monday after less than 18 months in office as infighting in his coalition cost him majority support.

Ismail's appointment essentially restores Muhyiddin's alliance. It also brings back the rule of the United Malays National Organization, which had led Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957 but was ousted in 2018 elections over a multibillion-dollar financial scandal.

King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah said Ismail had secured the backing of 114 lawmakers for a slender majority. He said Ismail, 61, will be sworn in as Malaysia's ninth prime minister on Saturday.

The announcement came



Former Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob waves to media as he departs from UMNO Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

after the monarch met state Malay rulers who advised him on the appointment. The king's role is largely ceremonial in Malaysia, but he appoints the person he believes has majority support in Parliament as prime minister.

Sultan Abdullah said in a statement that he hopes Ismail's appointment will bring an end to the coun-

try's political turmoil. He urged lawmakers to set aside their political differences and unite to tackle the country's worsening pandemic.

"Ismail's appointment was not unexpected. With this, UMNO is now back in the driver's seat," said James Chin, an Asian expert at Australia's University of Tasmania.

Ismail's 114 votes exceed the 111 needed for a simple majority but is close to the backing Muhyiddin had and was unable to keep. Ismail is from UMNO, the larger party in the alliance, leaving him on firmer ground, but he still needs Muhyiddin's party for enough support to lead. Angry Malaysians had launched an online peti-

tion to protest Ismail's candidacy, with more than 340,000 signatures collected so far. Many believe Ismail's choice will restore the status quo, with its perceived failed response to a worsening pandemic.

Malaysia has one of the world's highest infection rates and deaths per capita, despite a seven-month state of emergency and a lockdown since June. Daily new infections have more than doubled since June to hit a new record of 23,564 on Friday, bringing the country's total to over 1.5 million cases. Deaths have surged to above 13,000.

A lawyer before he joined politics, Ismail held several ministerial posts in previous UMNO governments. In 2015 as trade minister, Ismail courted controversy when he urged ethnic Malay consumers to boycott profiteering Chinese businesses.

In 2018 polls, Ismail waved the racial card, warning that every vote for the opposition was akin to eliminating special privileges given to Malays under a decades-old affirmative action program. □

Scottish Greens agree to back pro-independence government

By PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The Scottish National Party and the Scottish Greens agreed Friday on a power-sharing deal that falls short of a coalition government but could pave the way to another referendum on Scotland's independence from the U.K. in the coming couple of years.

The two parties, which have been locked in negotiations since May after the SNP fell one seat short of an overall majority in the Scottish elections, will cement the pro-independence majority in the devolved Edinburgh-based parliament over the coming five years.

The SNP has been in power since 2007 and its leader Nicola Sturgeon has been Scotland's first minister

since late 2014 following the lost independence vote earlier that year.

"The publication of this agreement today undoubtedly marks a historic moment," she said. "Working together to build

a greener, fairer, independent Scotland is groundbreaking."

Though the Scottish parliament has an array of powers, such as in health, education and energy matters, many economic and secu-

rity matters remain within the orbit of the British government in London.

Under the terms of the agreement, two Green lawmakers will be nominated to become ministers the first time the party has had such power anywhere in the United Kingdom. In return, Green lawmakers will support Sturgeon's government in confidence votes, as well as in annual budgets.

Scottish Greens co-leader Patrick Harvie said the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic requires a change in the way of doing politics.

"We must build a fairer, compassionate country and we must do everything in our power to tackle the climate and nature emergencies and deliver a just transition for all of Scot-

land," he said.

The agreement will likely set the stage for a confrontation with the British government over Scottish independence. Sturgeon reiterated her view that she wants to hold another referendum on the issue in the first half of this parliament in essence before the end of 2024 provided the pandemic is in the past.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the leader of the Conservative Party, would have the ultimate authority whether or not to permit another referendum on Scotland gaining independence.

Johnson appears intent on resisting another vote, setting up the possibility of renewed tensions between his government and Sturgeon's devolved administration. □



Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, center, and Scottish Green Party co-leaders Patrick Harvie, left, and Lorna Slater speak to the media at Bute House, Edinburgh, Friday, Aug. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

Sources: Brazil's Bolsonaro vexed by central bank autonomy

By DÉBORA ÁLVARES and DAVID BILLER
Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has begun expressing irritation at the central bank's newfound autonomy as surging inflation presents a threat to his 2022 reelection prospects, government officials told The Associated Press.

On Thursday, during a flight home from Mato Grosso state, Bolsonaro said he regretted signing the bill into law earlier this year that granted the bank autonomy, a high-level official aboard told the AP. Separately, Bolsonaro on several recent occasions has expressed discomfort with the autonomy and said that he would like to interfere in monetary policy, a minister who has heard such complaints himself told the AP. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

The law passed in February sought to protect the bank from political meddling and burnish Brazil's economic credibility



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro arrives to attend the annual military exercises by the Navy, Army and Air Force, in Formosa, Brazil, Monday, Aug. 16, 2021.

among investors. Under the law's terms, the president still nominates the central bank chief, but cannot fire him for disagreements about monetary policy. Bolsonaro in 2018 provided assurances that he would remain hands-off economic policymaking, and the market celebrated his pick to lead the central bank:

economist and former trader Roberto Campos Neto, who began a fixed four-year term in April. That has prompted a sell-off due to concerns about Brazil's fiscal policy outlook, as well as speculation the market could give up hope on the Bolsonaro administration's will or ability to deliver further reforms -- par-

ticularly as the president keeps focusing energy on his simmering feud with the Supreme Court. Twelve-month inflation is tracking at almost 9%, its fastest pace in over five years. After the government drew down pandemic welfare disbursements, the poor

have been especially hard hit by double-digit increases in the prices of foodstuffs, cooking gas and electricity. Economists surveyed by the monetary authority have raised their median 2021 inflation forecast for 19 straight weeks, to 7.05%. That would mean the cost of living will exceed the central bank's target for the first time in six years. The bank in 2021 is targeting 3.75%, plus or minus 1.5 percentage points. Economists expect 3.9% inflation in 2022, nearly the midpoint of the bank's target range after creeping upward in recent weeks. Still, the minister who spoke on condition of anonymity told the AP that Bolsonaro has spoken of his concern about out-of-control inflation during the election year. There have been reports that the ongoing drought -- Brazil's worst in 9 decades -- could present sharp inflation pressure associated with costlier thermoelectric generation rather than hydroelectric plants. □

Associated Press

Grace heads for a second hurricane hit on Mexican coast

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ
Associated Press

TULUM, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Grace temporarily knocked back to tropical storm force headed Friday for a second landfall in Mexico, this time taking aim at the Gulf coast after crashing through the coun-

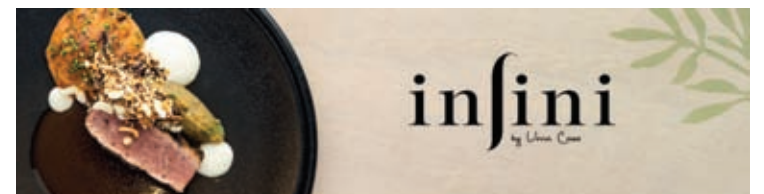
try's main tourist strip. The storm lost punch as it zipped across the Yucatan Peninsula, but it emerged late Thursday over the relatively warm Gulf of Mexico and was gaining energy. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Grace's winds were back up to 90 mph

(150 kph) early Friday. It was centered about 145 miles (230 kilometers) northeast of the port of Veracruz and was heading west at 10 mph (17 kph). Grace was slowing over the warm waters of Bay of Campeche, leading forecasters to warn that the storm will get stronger before making landfall. Mexico's weather service had warned earlier in the week that Grace could make the second landfall as a Category 2 hurricane. The forecast track would take it toward a coastal region of small fishing towns and beach resorts between Tuxpan and Veracruz, likely Friday night, then over a mountain range toward the heart of the country and the greater Mexico City region. □



Vehicles lay under a metallic structure brought down by the winds of Hurricane Grace in Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo state, Mexico, Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021.

Associated Press




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Vaccination marathon (Vacunathon) this Sunday, August 22, 2021, at the Ritz Carlton hotel

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Public Health and the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Social Security Bank (SVb) and General Health Care Insurance (AZV) organize another Vaccinathon (Vaccination Marathon) for all inhabitants of Aruba that are not vaccinated as yet.

The Vaccinathon takes place on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at the Ritz Carlton hotel from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. All inhabitants age 12 and older are invited to get their vaccine on this day. Bring your AZV card, or passport if you do not have an AZV card.

Pfizer is the available vaccine because of its high efficacy. People that only got one shot can also get their second shot on this day. However,

for this vaccine there is a minimum interval of three weeks between the first and second shot. Persons that can get the vaccine on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at the Ritz Carlton are:

- Children age 12 -17 years living in Aruba. Their parent must accompany them and must bring with them their AZV card. Persons 12+ registered at the Civil Registry (CENSO) and/ or with an AZV card.
- Immigrants 12 years and older that do not have an AZV card or not registered in the Civil Registry. They must have lived more than six months in Aruba and have proof of it.
- Pregnant women.
- Breastfeeding women.
- Persons that tested positive for COVID-19, 8

eight weeks or more ago.

- Aruban students on vacation or doing an internship in Aruba
- Persons who got their first dose more than three weeks ago.

Please note that the vaccination marathon is not for tourists or children younger than 12 years. Persons that test positive for COVID-19 must wait eight weeks after the lab test to get vaccinated. Do not go to the Vaccination Marathon, if you have symptoms. Please go get a COVID-19 test.

Please make use of this opportunity, especially for our youth that soon will start school. Vaccinate to protect yourself, your family, and your happy island. □

Dutch emergency aid on its way to Haiti

SAVANETA — The Netherlands offers emergency aid to Haiti. HNLMS Holland is on its way to the country that was hit by a severe earthquake on Saturday. The naval ship is loaded in Curaçao with, among other things, food, water and relief supplies. Also on board are an NH90 helicopter, fast craft and a team of at least 22 additional military personnel. It concerns marines and engineers of the army.

The military has a number of dinghies at their disposal. This includes bringing civilian international medical personnel to the hardest hit parts of Haiti. The military is mainly involved in the distribution of food, relief supplies and medical supplies. They also map out damage so that it is clear what is needed to provide help there. The Netherlands works closely with the European Union, the United

Kingdom and the United States. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU are financing the deployment of the naval vessel. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the humanitarian budget for this. The military emergency aid comes on top of the financial aid that the Netherlands has already made available to, among others, the Red Cross and UN organisations.

Dead and wounded

The death toll in Haiti has now risen to more than 2,100. It is estimated that around 10,000 were injured. More than 135,000 properties were damaged or destroyed.

It concerns houses, hospitals and schools. Healthcare and clean drinking water are scarce, which can lead to large-scale outbreaks of cholera.

75-strong crew

The Commander of the Navy in the Caribbean directs the military deployment of emergency aid. The patrol ship is in principle deployed for 2 weeks. On board the Holland, next to the emergency team, there is a crew of approximately 75 and a few Marchaussees. The Holland has been in the Caribbean since May 2021, among others for drug control. □

Aruba received 100,178 stopover visitors in July 2021, 18.4% more than the 84,592 stopovers received in June 2021

ORANJESTAD — According to Aruba Tourism Authority, Aruba received 100,178 stopover arrivals in July 2021, 18.4% more than the 84,592 stopovers it received in June 2021.

Aruba closed its borders to tourist arrivals as of March 17th 2020 and re-opened only to visitors from Curacao and Bonaire as of June 15th 2020 and then to visitors from Europe, Canada, and the Caribbean as of July 1st 2020. Aruba re-opened to visitors from the USA on July 10th 2020. Consequently, there were just 12,921 stopover visitors in July 2020.

The 100,178 stopovers received in July 2021 were 96.8% of the 103,464 stopovers received in July 2019. Compared with 2019, stopover arrivals from the USA increased by 8.9%, growing from 79,725 arrivals in July 2019 to 86,789 arrivals in July 2021. Arrivals from the USA comprised 86.6% of all arrivals in July 2021 up from 77.1% in July 2019.

Arrivals from Canada dropped by 86.9%, from 2,692 in July 2019 to 353 stopovers in July 2021. Arrivals from the Netherlands grew by 38.7%, from 3,671 in July 2019 to 5,091 in July this year. Aruba re-opened its ports to visitors in June of this year and during July 2021 received four

cruise ship calls and a total of 6,930 cruise passengers.

In the first seven months of 2021 Aruba saw a 76.5% increase in the number of stopover visitors, growing from 241,673 visitors in the first seven months of 2020 to 426,565 visitors in the first seven months of this year. The number of stopovers from the USA grew by 103.3% during the first seven months, from 185,108 in 2020 to 376,290 through the end of July 2021. Compared with the first seven months of 2019, the 426,565 stopover visitors received in the first seven months of 2021 was 62.8% of the 679,113 stopovers received in the first seven

months of 2019. There were 376,290 stopovers from the USA in the first seven months of 2021, 73.1% of the 515,068 received from the USA in the first seven months of 2019.

The number of visitors staying in hotels in the first seven months of 2021 declined by 44.5% compared with the same seven months of 2019, falling from 350,892 visitors in 2019 to 194,781 in the same seven months of 2021. The share of visitors staying in hotels fell from 51.7% in the first seven months of 2019 to 45.7% in the same seven months of 2021.

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Saba youth train with professional coaches

SABA—Organized by the Saba Youth Council with funding from the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS), youngsters on Saba in the first two weeks of August took part in soccer and volleyball practices offered by professional coaches from the Netherlands and Aruba.

The successful project which had a large turn-out, called the Gain Train, was initiated by the Saba Youth Council. The Youth Council approached the Public Health Department of the Public Entity Saba a few months ago to assist.

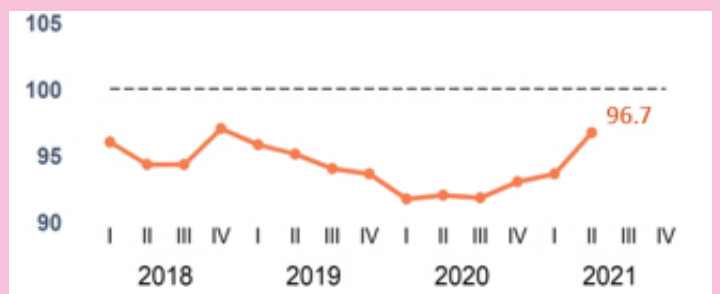
Four coaches came to Saba for two weeks of practice. While on the island, Ine Klosters and Jolanda Gudde (both from the Netherlands) of the Netherlands Volleyball Association (NEVOBO), and Bert Zuurman (the Netherlands) and Elvis Albertus (Aruba) of the Royal Netherlands Soccer Association (KNVB), also provided coaching courses. The KNVB coaches and the trainings that they provided were part of the KNVB WorldCoaches program. Commissioner of Sports and Public Health Rolando Wilson said he was very pleased with the visit of the four coaches. "Their visit and the professional trainings that they provided fit right in Saba's healthy lifestyle policy and our objective to keep our peo-

ple, including the youngsters, active and healthy. I commend and thank the coaches for a wonderful job," said Wilson. The program consisted of daily soccer practices in the morning with the first session for children age 6 to 11 and the second session for 12-19 years old. Volleyball practices took place in the afternoon, with the first session 6-11 years old and the second session 12-19 years old. The coaching courses for persons 16 years and up also took place on a daily basis. The soccer trainings took place on the Johan Cruyff Court in The Bottom, while the volleyball trainings were at the school gym in St. John's. When the coaches arrived, the Youth Council held a reception at the Cottage Club Hotel to welcome the coaches and introduce them to the island. The program ended on Saturday night, August 14, with a gala event at Queen's Garden to honor the coaches and all participants. The gala event included a full dinner and awards. The four coaches were scheduled to leave for St. Eustatius on Sunday, August 15 for similar trainings with the youth there, but because of inclement weather, they could not leave Saba until Monday and Tuesday. The visit of the coaches to Saba and St. Eustatius has been financed by the Ministry of VWS. □



Consumers more optimistic in the second quarter of 2021
Results for the second quarter of 2021

ORANJESTAD – During the second quarter of 2021, consumers felt more optimistic as the consumer confidence index rose by 3.1 index point to 96.7.



By the end of the second quarter, top of mind consumer concerns were the price levels as 86 percent of those surveyed expected that prices will increase during the coming 6 months while 54 percent of respondents felt that their household's financial situation was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic measures, which is 3 percentage points less compared to previous quarter (Q1-2021: 57 percent). Meanwhile, 46 percent of those surveyed reported that finding a job has become more difficult over the past 6 months (Q1-2021: 70 percent). Also, 46 percent perceived the financial position of the government to continue worsening, even though this is 19 percentage

points less compared to previous quarter (Q1-2021: 65 percent). Although 21 percentage points less in comparison to previous quarter, 43 percent indicated that they were still concerned with COVID-19 being a threat to their personal health (Q1-2021: 64 percent). In the second quarter of 2021, the present situation index grew by 4.6 index points to 96.7, while the future expectation index reached 101.3, a growth of 5.3 index points from 96.0 in the previous quarter, reflecting more optimistic sentiments amongst respondents. Half of those surveyed expected the Aruban economy to take more than 2 years to fully recover from the CO-

VID-19 crisis (Q1-2021: 56 percent). In the second quarter of 2021, 67 percent reported that buying a car was not suitable (Q1-2021: 72 percent), 62 percent indicated that taking out a loan was not appropriate (Q1-2021: 67 percent), while 57 percent reported that taking out a mortgage was unsuitable (Q1-2021: 61 percent). Close to 50 percent stated that going on vacation was not appropriate (Q1-2021: 62 percent). Consequently, the consumer purchasing habit index stood at 94.4 in the second quarter.

More information on the Consumer Confidence survey is available on CBA's website (<https://www.cbaruba.org/>). □

St.Maarten/St.Martin Research and Development Center

by Cdr. Bud Slabbaert

It is common knowledge that the economies in the Caribbean desperately need diversification. Being dependent for about 70-85% on tourism is insane. It is sad that no realistic alternatives have been developed yet as the dilemma is older than V.S.O.P. ripened in an oak barrel. The problem needs attention because it is hotter than a firecracker lit on both ends. Sure, there is a lot of 'um diddle diddle um diddle ay'-talk about it, but there are no meaningful initiatives or results. More of the same, tourism development, is not a solution but rather fueling the problem. Maybe a look from different perspective in a time now, where the pandemic circumstances provide more time for pondering and planning.

The formation of a Research and Development Center can be a crucial element of the development of future advancement and sustainable growth. It is the place where scientists and engineers will meet, plan, investigate, and test inventions, innovations, and technologies that are developed at the center. It will also be a laboratory for studying any kind of impact of projects as a whole or its individual components on social-economic and environmental matters, as well as how extreme external conditions may impact the project.

The ultimate mission of the Center is to contribute to the production and dissemination of new rigorous evidence and products that provide practical solutions to issues, confrontations and problems that shall not be overlooked in this or any other project of its kind worldwide. Topics or projects may vary and pertain to unique regional circumstances that can also be applied in other areas.

The R&D Center will:

- provide leadership in defining research and development directions within its topic areas.
- attract scientists, engineers and students to visit the location (education/science tourism).
- be subject to worldwide media exposure of new development or discovery.
- function as an educational resource center (motivating local youth).
- create opportunities for cooperation with other educational institutions of various levels



- els for the development of new dedicated programs and conducting supplemental research.
- extend the dissemination of its findings through online educational and informational offerings.
- impact the economy positively, without dependency on trends; it may diversify the sources of revenue of the local economy.
- offer local employment for non-academic supporting and supplementary services.
- inspire the future plans of young people in the community and region.

It is envisioned that the Research Center will become a permanent institution that will continuously explore all aspects of the development for regional needs but also applications that are useful worldwide. It will find its own place in the international community of Research and Development Centers. It is intended that it will remain permanently on its location. As such the R&D Center may be considered an equal gift and asset to both sides of the hosting island community.

Who is going pay for it?

The local governments will not have the funding for it...., period. However, the governments of the Netherlands and France, or even the European Union may be interested to contribute. There should be nothing against supporting a program that equally benefits the communities on both sides of the island. Seen as a vision, it could equally support socio-economic prosperity of both territories.

It should not be subject to local politics but be an independent international project. Because of the chosen international status, it might be

that international organizations are willing to provide support. It could even have the form of a private-public-partnership. Industries spend vast amounts of funding on research and development and have their own development centers and laboratories. However, it can be advantageous for them to outsource projects or have a representation in a particular geographic location or environment. They could help the research projects with knowledge input or feedback. They may receive privileges on sharing property rights or being the beneficiary of research and development results.

In business, there is no such a thing as a free lunch. But, if a project is of significant importance to development and testing of products or techniques, industries are willing to invest. On the one hand the support will be a form of donation by the industry for a good cause, on the other hand it is an opportunity for them to develop innovations that may result in new business opportunities. The R&D Center can be a testlab where new materials and techniques can be experienced under real typical regional circumstances and will be further developed on site. If it becomes a complex project, it could also mean that several industries will cooperate to find a joint solution and an opportunity how their products or services may complement each other in a united effort. Nothing is impossible and it could happen here in the Caribbean.

Does it all make sense?

To name a neutral territory, Switzerland is one of the highest spenders on research and development in the world. Switzerland invests over US\$ 17.5 billion in research and development annually, which is equivalent to around 3% of its gross domestic product. The private sector is a major player when it comes to research and development. In previous years it invested a total of US\$ 14 billion (2.2% of GDP) in R&D. Sure, Switzerland is known to be a wealthy country. Research and development contributes to it.

What's next?

More than happy to think about it and consider it? Being 'more than happy' sounds like a dangerous mental condition after consuming illegal substances. And complacency borders on waiting and hoping for lightning to strike. For those looking for an easy way-out response: "If we don't know it already, we're not interested." □

Aruba received 100,178 stopover visitors in July 2021

Continued from Page 8

In the first seven months of 2021 140,936 visitors used timeshare accommodation, 78.0% of the 180,579 visitors who used such accommodation in the first seven months of 2019, with the sector's share growing from 26.6% in 2019 to 33.0% in 2021.

The total number of visitors stay-

ing in timeshare resorts grew by 124.8% in the first seven months of 2021 compared with the same seven months of 2020.

Visitors using other accommodation – private homes, condominiums, short term rental accommodation and apartments – fell by 38.5% when comparing the first seven months of 2019 with the same seven months of 2021 from

147,642 visitors in 2019 to 90,848 in 2021, with the share dropping from 21.7% in 2019 to 21.3% in 2021.

In the first seven months of 2021 the primary carrier was JetBlue which brought in 124,232 non-resident visitors, 29.1% of all stopover arrivals, while American Airlines brought in 109,815 non-resident visitors, 25.7% of all visitors. United Airlines brought in 69,925 visitors

with Delta carrying 49,781 arrivals. These four carriers brought in 82.9% of all visitors in the first seven months of 2021.

Aruba received 7 cruise ship calls in 2021 with 8,519 cruise passengers compared with the 98 cruise ships made in 2020 and 255,384 passengers.

Climate impact of coal sales from U.S. lands scrutinized

By **MATTHEW BROWN**

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S.

officials launched a review Thursday of climate damage and other impacts from coal mining on public lands as the Biden administration expands its scrutiny of government fossil fuel sales that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

The review also will consider if companies are paying fair value for coal extracted from public reserves in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Utah and other states, according to a federal register notice outlining the administration's intents.

Coal combustion for electricity remains one of the top sources of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, even after many power plants shut down over the past decade because of concerns over pollution.

Almost half the nation's annual coal production — some 250 million tons last fiscal year — is mined by private companies from leases on federal land, primarily in Western states.

Coal lease sales were temporarily shut down under President Barack Obama because of climate concerns, then revived under President Donald Trump as he sought to bolster the declining industry.

Among President Joe Biden's first actions in his first week in office was to suspend oil and gas lease sales — a move later blocked by a federal judge — and he



In this April 4, 2013 file photo, a mechanized shovel loads a haul truck that can carry up to 250 tons of coal at the Spring Creek coal mine near Decker, Mont.

faced pressure from environmental groups to take similar action against coal.

Few leases have been sold in recent years as coal demand shrank drastically, but the industry's opponents want to ensure it can't make a comeback as wildfires, drought, rising sea levels and other effects of climate change worsen, according to a report last week from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The Interior Department review will consider the effects of coal mining on air quality and the local environment, whether leasing decisions should consider if the fuel will be exported, and how coal supports the nation's

energy needs.

The agency said it will take 30 days of public comment and plans to announce its next steps by November.

The coal program brought in \$387 million for federal and state coffers through royalties and other payments last year, according to government data. It supports thousands of jobs and has been fiercely defended by industry representatives, Republicans in Congress and officials in coal producing states.

"Our public lands are intended for multiple uses, including the production of affordable, reliable energy for all Americans, and we look forward to providing comment throughout the

Associated Press

government's review," said Ashley Burke with the National Mining Association, an industry lobbying group. California, New York, New Mexico and Washington state sued after then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke revived coal lease sales in 2017. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe, joined by the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, also filed a legal challenge, while state officials from Wyoming and Montana argued against reviving the moratorium. The Biden administration had sought to delay the legal challenges, but a federal judge said in June that the states and environmentalists faced potential damage if the case got

stalled. U.S. District Judge Brian Morris cited pending lease applications for thousands of acres of federal land holding at least 1 billion tons of coal.

Interior officials said the review would not impact pending lease sales and modifications, or permits to dig existing leases. They also pledged to hold direct talks with Native American tribes that could be affected. A small number of tribes have coal, while others historically have opposed development.

Thursday's action was referred to as a "good first step" by Earthjustice attorney Jenny Harbine, who represents environmental groups and the Northern Cheyenne in the legal dispute. But she and others said they'll keep pressing Biden to end all coal, oil and gas extractions from U.S. lands.

"We're sitting here in record heat and choking wildfires," Harbine said. "There couldn't be a more important time of the administration to take action to end fossil fuel production from our federal lands."

In 2017 and 2018, the government sold leases for 134 million tons of coal on public land in six states, according to figures provided by the Interior Department. That's a relatively small amount compared with previous years, for example 2011 and 2012, when more than 2 billion tons were sold in Wyoming alone. □

GM extends recall to cover all Chevy Bolts due to fire risk

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors is recalling all Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicles sold worldwide to fix a battery problem that could cause fires.

The recall raises questions about lithium ion batteries, which now are used in nearly all electric vehicles. President Joe Biden wants to convert 50% of the U.S. vehicle fleet from internal combustion to electricity by 2050 as part of a

broader effort to fight climate change. The recall announced Friday adds about 73,000 Bolts from the 2019 through 2022 model years to a previous recall of 69,000 older Bolts.

GM said that in rare cases the batteries have two manufacturing defects that can cause fires. The Detroit-based automaker said it will replace the battery modules in all the vehicles.

The move will cost the company about \$1 billion. GM said owners should limit charging to 90% of battery capacity. The Bolts, including a new SUV, should be parked outdoors until the modules are replaced.

The original recall was blamed on a manufacturing defect at a South Korean factory run by LG Chemical Solution, GM's battery supplier. But the company said an inves-



This Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020 file photo shows a 2020 Chevrolet Bolt EV on display at the 2020 Pittsburgh International Auto Show in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

tigation showed that the batteries made at other defects are possible in sites. □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

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Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS**
- 40 Make blank tables
 - 41 Venomous viper
 - 42 Cars' scars
- DOWN**
- 1 Partial
 - 2 Different
 - 3 Asserts
 - 4 Screws up
 - 5 Held sway
 - 6 Topper
 - 7 Smelter's supply
 - 8 Highly decorative
 - 9 Suggests
 - 10 Nobel, for one
 - 16 "Lolita" writer

- 20 Picked by the party
- 21 Mag. workers
- 24 Sports drink
- 25 Saluted suffix
- 26 Vacation spot
- 27 James Clavell book
- 28 Lend a hand
- 29 Components
- 30 Sweet raisin cake
- 34 Folk learning
- 36 Fabric color
- 37 Anvil's place

- 11 Foreword
- 12 Cupid's missile
- 13 Burglar's bane
- 14 Keyed up
- 15 Subs
- 17 Lend a hand
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- 19 "No, No" girl
- 22 — Plains
- 23 Homes
- 24 Physics bits
- 25 2021 Masters champ
- 27 Keg need
- 30 Adapted from
- 31 "Do — say!"
- 32 Trouble
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- 35 Dagger part
- 38 Subject
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A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

J K X Z I F S M K O G I C C V K F I B Z
F Z M Z C C V L V Z C . F K L J D Y D B V Z C .
Q V L U K D L L U Z O . U D O I F V L W

M I F F K L C D B X V X Z . — S I J I V J I O I
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS DEVOID OF INTELLIGENCE BECAUSE IT IS DEVOID OF ARTIFICE. — JEAN BAUDRILLARD



South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster holds a model of a horseshoe crab, whose blood is a vital component in the contamination testing of injectable medicines - including the coronavirus vaccines - at Charles River Labs on Friday, Aug. 6, 2021, in Charleston, S.C.

Associated Press

Clean needles depend on the blue blood of horseshoe crabs

By **MEG KINNARD**
Associated Press
CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)

— It's one of the stranger, lesser-known aspects of U.S. health care the striking, milky-blue blood of horseshoe crabs is a critical component of tests to ensure injectable medications such as coronavirus vaccines aren't contaminated. To obtain it, harvesters bring many thousands of the creatures to laboratories to be bled each year, and then return them to the sea a practice that has drawn criticism from conservationists because some don't survive the process.

The blood, which is blue due to its copper content, is coveted for proteins used to create the LAL test, a process used to screen medical products for bacteria. Synthetic alternatives aren't widely accepted by the health care industry and haven't been approved federally, leaving the crabs as the only domestic source of this key ingredient.

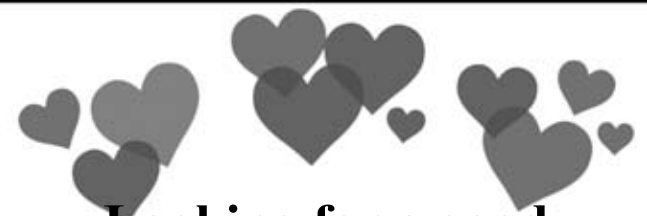
Many of these crabs are harvested along the coast of South Carolina, where Gov. Henry McMaster promoted the niche industry as key to the development of a domestic medical supply chain, while also noting

that environmental concerns should be explored. "We don't want to have to depend on foreign countries for a lot of reasons, including national security, so it's good to see this company thriving in the United States," McMaster told The Associated Press this month during a visit to Charles River Laboratories at its Charleston facilities, to which AP was granted rare access. "We want to do everything we can to onshore all of these critical operations."

Horseshoe crabs aquatic arthropods shaped like

helmets with long tails are more akin to scorpions than crabs, and older than dinosaurs. They've been scurrying along the brackish floors of coastal waters for hundreds of millions of years. Their eggs are considered a primary fat source for more than a dozen species of migratory shore birds, according to South Carolina's Department of Natural Resources.

Their value to avoiding infection emerged after scientists researching their immune response injected bacteria into horseshoe crabs in the 1950s. □



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Japan aims to bring back soil samples from Mars moon by 2029

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's space agency plans to bring soil samples back from the Mars region ahead of the U.S. and Chinese missions now operating on Mars, in hopes of finding clues to the planet's origin and traces of possible life. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, plans to launch an explorer in 2024 to land on the Martian moon Phobos to collect 10 grams (0.35 ounce) of soil and bring it back to Earth in 2029.

The rapid return trip would put Japan ahead of the United States and China in bringing back samples from the Martian region despite starting later, project manager Yasuhiro Kawakatsu said in an online news conference Thursday.

NASA's Perseverance rover is operating in a Mars crater where it is to collect 31 samples that are to be returned to Earth with help from the European Space Agency as early as 2031. China landed a spacecraft on Mars in May and plans to bring back samples around 2030.

JAXA scientists believe about 0.1% of the surface soil on Phobos came from Mars, and 10 grams could contain about 30 granules, depending on the consistency of the soil, Kawakatsu said.

Tomohiro Usui, professor at the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, said soil on Phobos is likely to be a mixture of material from the moon itself and material from Mars that was spread by sandstorms. Collecting samples from multiple locations on Phobos could provide a greater chance of obtaining possible traces of life from Mars than obtaining soil from a single location on Mars, he said.

Any life forms that might have come from Mars will have died because of harsh solar and cosmic radiation on Phobos, JAXA scientists said. The NASA and the European Space



In this April 30, 2021, file image taken by the Mars Perseverance rover and made available by NASA, the Mars Ingenuity helicopter, right, flies over the surface of the planet.

Associated Press

Agency missions focus on potential life forms and evolution of the area of the Jezero crater, believed to be an ancient lake.

By studying Phobos soil samples including material from Mars, scientists hope to learn about the evolution of the Martian biosphere, Usui said.

He said Japanese research on Phobos and NASA's samples from specific locations in the Martian crater can complement each

other and could lead to answers to questions such as how Martian life, if present, emerged and evolved in time and place.

Last December, a JAXA probe, Hayabusa2, brought back more than 5 grams (0.19 ounce) of soil from the asteroid Ryugu, more than 300 million kilometers (190 million miles) from Earth, in the world's first successful return of an asteroid sample. □



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'On Broadway' documentary offers hope for New York theater

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Broadway is down right now, struggling to reopen after being shuttered during the pandemic. But it has been down before and gotten back up.

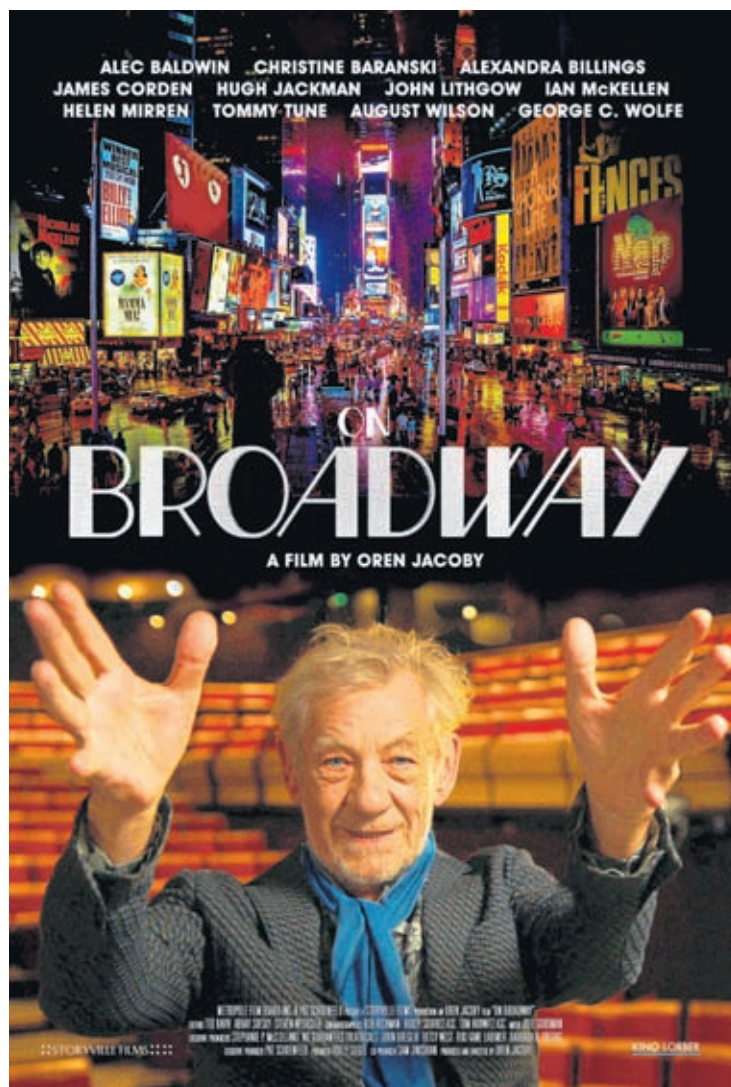
That's the message of "On Broadway," a new documentary celebrating the history of the Great White Way.

"Broadway is resilient," said the film's director, Oren Jacoby. "The story of that resilience is really the message. And we hope that inspires people and will make them want to support the arts and want to go back to Broadway."

The 85-minute film traces how the fortunes of New York's theater district have gone up and down over the decades, crashing in the late 1960s after enjoying a Golden Age in the '40s and '50s. Though hard-hit by the pandemic, the film offers hope that a rebound is possible.

"The film is a celebration about this ability of Broadway to reinvent itself," said Jacoby. "Broadway kept finding new ways to attract audiences and respond to the times and be in a meaningful way a part of people's lives."

Jacoby interviewed an A-list of Broadway stars, in-



This image released by Kino Lorber shows promotional art for the documentary "On Broadway," a new documentary celebrating the Great White Way.

Associated Press

cluding Hugh Jackman, Helen Mirren, Christine Baranski, James Corden, Alec Baldwin, August Wilson, John Lithgow, Viola Davis and Ian McKellen. Some others tapped to share their views are Michael Eisner,

David Henry Hwang, Jack O'Brien, Harold Prince, Michael Riedel, Jeffrey Seller and George C. Wolfe.

Broadway was on top in the '40s and '50s when big, lush musicals "West Side Story," "Kiss Me, Kate, and

"Oklahoma," among them were what played on the radio and drove Hollywood films, while Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams made playwrighting a high art.

All that crashed as New York City flirted with bankruptcy in the early 1970s and pop music shifted away from musicals. From 1968-1972, attendance on Broadway went from 10 million to less than 5 million, a precipitous decline. The documentary makes the point that Broadway had suddenly become uncool, what your grandparents liked.

A large part of the problem was with Times Square itself, which had become seedy, filled with junkies and hustlers. Lithgow calls it "a rat hole" and Tommy Tune tells of his visiting mom crying when she first saw his apartment in adjacent Hell's Kitchen.

"On Broadway" explains how live theater clawed its way back, with city leaders cleaning up Times Square and with such creative geniuses as Stephen Sondheim, Michael Bennett and Bob Fosse making theater an edgy, sexy draw again. Interspliced with the past is behind-the-scenes footage of the modern-day play "The Nap" as it navigates Broadway, with a disappointing first read-through

and nerves throughout. The British import about a snooker player lasted less than two months on Broadway in 2018 and shows how tenuous the business of live theater can be.

Jacoby included "The Nap" for another reason: It co-starred Alexandra Billings, a transgender actor playing a transgender character. That gave him a way to show how Broadway's stages have become more diverse over the years in terms of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and now gender identity.

"Theater has to touch the hearts and souls of the widest possible audience and that's why it's gotten better and come to reflect more and more what people in our world really look like," said Jacoby, whose other works include "Sister Rose's Passion" and "The Topdog Diaries," a portrait of playwright Suzan-Lori Parks.

By the late 1970s, Broadway had rebounded, but its recovery was still tenuous until "Cats" captured popular attention, pointing the way in the '80s for mega-successes and merchandising. The British theater invasion kept Broadway afloat during the AIDS crisis and rock returned with "Rent."

Disney, "Wicked" and "Hamilton" have been modern game-changers. □

Rolling Stones honor album 'Tattoo You' with 9 new tunes



In this Aug. 5, 2019 file photo, Ronnie Wood, from left, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones perform in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Rolling Stones are celebrating the 40th anniversary of their album "Tattoo You" with a remastered collection that includes nine previously unreleased tracks.

The newly-remastered 11-track album is out on Oct. 22, including songs "Hang Fire," "Waiting on a Friend" and the opening track, "Start Me Up." The deluxe formats will also include the albums "Lost & Found: Rarities" and the 26-track "Still Life: Wembley Stadium 1982."

The "Lost & Found: Rarities" album includes the original "Living in the Heart of Love," a version of Jimmy Reed's "Shame, Shame, Shame," a cover of Dobie Gray's soulful "Drift Away" and a reggae-tinged version of "Start Me Up." The release comes as the rockers prepare 13 new dates on

their "No Filter" tour in the United States. The new itinerary starts Sept. 26 in St. Louis and extends into November. Released on Aug. 24, 1981, "Tattoo You" was a collage of songs from the band's sessions stretching back several years.

The Grammy-nominated "Tattoo You" remains the last Stones album to hit No.1 in the U.S. charts, peaking at the top spot on Sept. 19 and remaining there for some 10 weeks.

The Rolling Stones received their first Grammy nomination for album of the year for "Some Girls" in 1978. The band's albums also include "Beggars Banquet" in 1968, "Let It Bleed" in 1969, "Sticky Fingers" in 1971 and "Exile on Main St." in 1972. Their singles "Honky Tonk Women" and "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" have been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. □



New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist makes a save in overtime during an NHL hockey game against the San Jose Sharks in San Jose, Calif., in this Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018, file photo.

Associated Press

“It’s time”: Star goaltender Henrik Lundqvist retires at 39

WASHINGTON (AP) — The King has called it a career. Henrik Lundqvist, one of the greatest goaltenders of his generation, announced his retirement Friday less than nine months after heart surgery.

“It’s time,” the 39-year-old Lundqvist wrote in a social media post. “For the last 30 years, I have devoted my life to the game of hockey and now it’s time to walk away from the game I love and begin a new chapter.” The Swede starred for years for the New York Rangers, where he piled up 459 wins along with a 2.43 goals-against average and 64 shutouts in 15 seasons.

He is sixth in NHL history in wins, seventh in saves (23,509), eighth in games played (887), ninth in starts (871), ninth in time on ice (51,816:51) and 17th in shutouts, according to the NHL. He also helped Sweden win gold at the 2006 Turin Olympics. The Rangers bought out Lundqvist’s contract in September 2020 and he signed a one-year, \$1.5 million contract with the Washington Capitals in October. He never took the ice after announcing he had a heart condition. The five-time All Star had surgery in January, but didn’t begin workouts until last month and became

an unrestricted free agent July 28. The man known as “King Henrik” was wildly popular and his departure from the Rangers was painful to many fans, even if it was expected with Igor Shesterkin and Alexandar Georgiev waiting in the wings. His deal with Washington came with the hope of Lundqvist earning his first Stanley Cup championship. Instead, he will head into retirement. Lundqvist said he was excited about the future but did not detail specific plans.

“There are many things I love about the game: From the excitement I felt as an 8-year-old at my first practice to the 15 years of butterflies I had every time I took the ice in the greatest city in the world,” he wrote. “I’m extremely grateful for what hockey has brought me and taught me in life. These lessons will never leave me.” Lundqvist appeared in 887 NHL regular-season games, plus another 130 in the playoffs. He won the Vezina Trophy as the league’s top goalie in 2011-12 and he came close to a championship in 2014, leading the Rangers to the Cup Final. He lost postseason series to the Capitals in 2009 and 2011, then eliminated them in 2012, 2013 and 2015. The

Rangers released a statement that ended with the line: “Henrik is, and always will be, a Ranger.”

The team said the retirement was met with mixed emotions and offered the longtime face of the organization its best wishes and heartfelt gratitude. It plans to retire his No. 30 in a ceremony at a game this season. “Henrik’s commitment to excellence made him one of the best goaltenders to ever play the game of hockey, and we are so fortunate to have witnessed his greatness firsthand for 15 years,” the team said.

Lundqvist owns almost every record for goalies in Rangers history, including victories, shutouts, playoff wins and games played. He set an Olympic record for longest shutout streak (172:34) between the 2006 and 2010 Games.

Lundqvist, who plays guitar and has been known to play charity events with tennis great John McEnroe, was a finalist for the NHL Player Foundation Award in 2014-15 for his work with the Garden of Dreams Foundation in New York. His own foundation strives to create positive change in the lives of children and adults throughout the world through education and health services. □

Nadal out of U.S. Open, ends season because of injured foot



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, serves to Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, during the men’s singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York, in this Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019, file photo.

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — The U.S. Open lost some more star power Friday. Rafael Nadal is gone, undone by a chronic foot injury that will sideline him for the rest of the season.

His announcement further depletes the year’s last major tennis tournament, with Roger Federer already out as well as last year’s champion, Dominic Thiem.

Nadal’s absence also clears one more possible hurdle for Novak Djokovic, who now resumes his bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam without one of his longtime rivals in the men’s draw at Flushing Meadows.

“I am very sorry to announce that I won’t be able to keep playing tennis during the 2021 season,” Nadal said in a video on social media. “But, as you know, I have been suffering too much with my foot for the last year now and I missed a lot of important events for me.”

Federer needs knee surgery and said last weekend he would not play in New York. Thiem said this week he is ending his season after injuring his right wrist in June.

Nadal, Federer and Djokovic share the men’s record of 20 Grand Slam singles titles. Djokovic, in addition to the Grand Slam pursuit, will now be trying to move ahead of his rivals. He won the Australian Open in February, the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July.

Nadal and Federer also both sat out the U.S. Open last year because of the pandemic; Federer because he had two operations on his right knee in 2020.

The last time Nadal entered the tournament, in 2019, he won it for one of his four trophies in New York.

The U.S. Open draw is next week and main draw play starts Aug. 30. Federer (40), Nadal (35) and Djokovic (34) have ruled men’s tennis for more than 15 years, dominating the sport’s most important tournaments and swapping the No. 1 ranking.

Djokovic beat Nadal in the French Open semifinals and the Spaniard then sat out both Wimbledon and the Olympics because of fatigue.

Speaking in the video, the fourth-ranked Nadal said the foot pain he has been battling most of his career is too much. “During the last year I was not able to practice and prepare the way I need to be competitive at the standards I want to be,” he said. “The injury is nothing new. It is the same injury I am having since 2005. In that moment the doctors were very negative about my future career. But, honestly, I was able to have a career I was unable to ever dream about, so I am confident I will recover again.”

Nadal insisted he is “going to fight every single day” because he is convinced he still has “a couple of beautiful years” left in his career. □

Korda struggles, Hall shares lead at Women's British Open

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP)

— Nelly Korda could barely raise a smile after tapping in for the first birdie of her second round at the Women's British Open.

On a day her putter turned cold, it had taken 14 holes for the world's top-ranked player to pick up a shot at Carnoustie.

"Just a little punch of reality that I'm human," Korda said.

Some of her big rivals had no such problems Friday.

Georgia Hall, the 2018 champion, overcame a double-bogey at the 15th hole the start of a brutal finish at the storied Scottish links course to shoot 3-under 69 and take a share of the 36-hole lead with Mina Harigae of the United States (67) on 7 under overall.

One stroke back was No. 4 Sei Young Kim (71), a major champion from last year, and Lizette Salas (69), who finished second to Korda at the PGA Championship in June.

Lexi Thompson, looking to add to her sole major win in 2014, shot 70 and was part of a group of seven players on 5 under.

Then came Korda, who was with five others including 2019 champion Hinako Shibuno and last month's Evian Championship win-



United States' Nelly Korda tees off from the 2nd hole during the second round of the Women's British Open golf championship, in Carnoustie, Scotland, Friday, Aug. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

ner Minjee Lee on 4 under. Korda, the new superstar of women's golf and the recently crowned Olympic champion, shot 1-over 73 and was one of only two players in the top 17 on the leaderboard to shoot over par on another benign day when the wind held off and it felt almost balmy at times near the east coast of Scotland. Hall was hoping that wouldn't last.

"I think it's about time it got windy," Hall said, looking ahead to conditions

at the weekend which are forecast to turn much more challenging. "It's proper links golf and that's what people want to see and I think it makes golf much more interesting when there's a lot of wind. So I'm quite excited to play in it." Hall, who won her favorite event three years ago at Royal Lytham, rolled in six birdies in her first 14 holes to move into a one-stroke lead on 9 under.

The double-bogey 6 at No. 15 dropped her into what

would shortly be a four-way tie for the lead and she parred her way home to join Harigae, who rolled in a long, winding birdie putt at the last to complete a round of 67 that contained seven birdies in all.

In the last five years at the Women's Open, no player has more rounds in the 60s than Hall's nine and that is filling the 25-year-old English golfer with confidence heading into the weekend.

"I do feel very calm when I am playing the British

Open," Hall said.

"It is just so nice to play in front of the crowds. We missed that last year and to hear them cheering my name is great. I'm having a lot of fun."

That's something Korda didn't seem to have.

Even making a big right-to-left putt for birdie at 17 failed to cheer up the world's best player, who parred her first eight holes that were characterized by a series of missed putts from mid-range, even if her tee-to-green play was typically strong.

"I don't think I hit it that bad," Korda said. "The only thing I struggled on was making those putts and getting it close."

Frustration got the better of Korda as she bogeyed No. 9, missing a putt from 8 feet, and No. 11 and further missed chances at Nos. 12 and 13 didn't improve her mood. The first of her two birdies came at the par-5 14th after she reached the green in two.

"Everyone keeps talking about how I'm playing so well, but I'm going to shoot bad scores," Korda said. "I'm human."

She only finished three strokes off the lead, though. And at least she made it to the weekend. □

MLB to end 70-year partnership with Topps trading cards

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

Major League Baseball is ending a 70-year relationship with trading card company Topps after signing a new partnership with a rival company.

The loss of the MLB partnership immediately scuttled a deal announced earlier this year that would have made Topps a publicly traded company.

The special-purpose acquisition company Mudrick-Capital Acquisition Corporation II said Friday that its agreement to merge with Topps to take the company public was terminated

by mutual agreement after it found out that MLB and the league's players' union would not be renewing their respective agreements with The Topps Co. when they come up for renewal at the end of 2025 and 2022, respectively.

ESPN reported on Thursday that it obtained a memo from the Major League Baseball Players Association that a company created by the sports merchandise company Fanatics that has yet to be named will be the exclusive licensee for baseball cards once its current licensing agreements expire at the end

of next year. The Fanatics deal also includes the players' unions for the National Basketball League and the National Football League, ESPN reported. Fanatics did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The proposed deal with Mudrick would've made Topps a public company. Topps, which was bought in 2007 by former Disney CEO Michael Eisner through his firm, The Tornante Co., said in a prepared statement on Friday that it will now remain private.

Topps said that it expects



In this March 6, 2007 file photo, Topps baseball cards are seen in Boston.

Associated Press

to be able to make substantially all its current licensed baseball products through 2025.

The company, created in 1938, is best known for baseball cards.

But Topps also makes products for Major League

Soccer, UEFA Champions League, Bundesliga, National Hockey League, Formula 1, Star Wars and WWE and Garbage Pail Kids. Its confections division has brands including Ring Pop, Push Pop and Bazooka bubble gum. □